

High school student in Tarentum

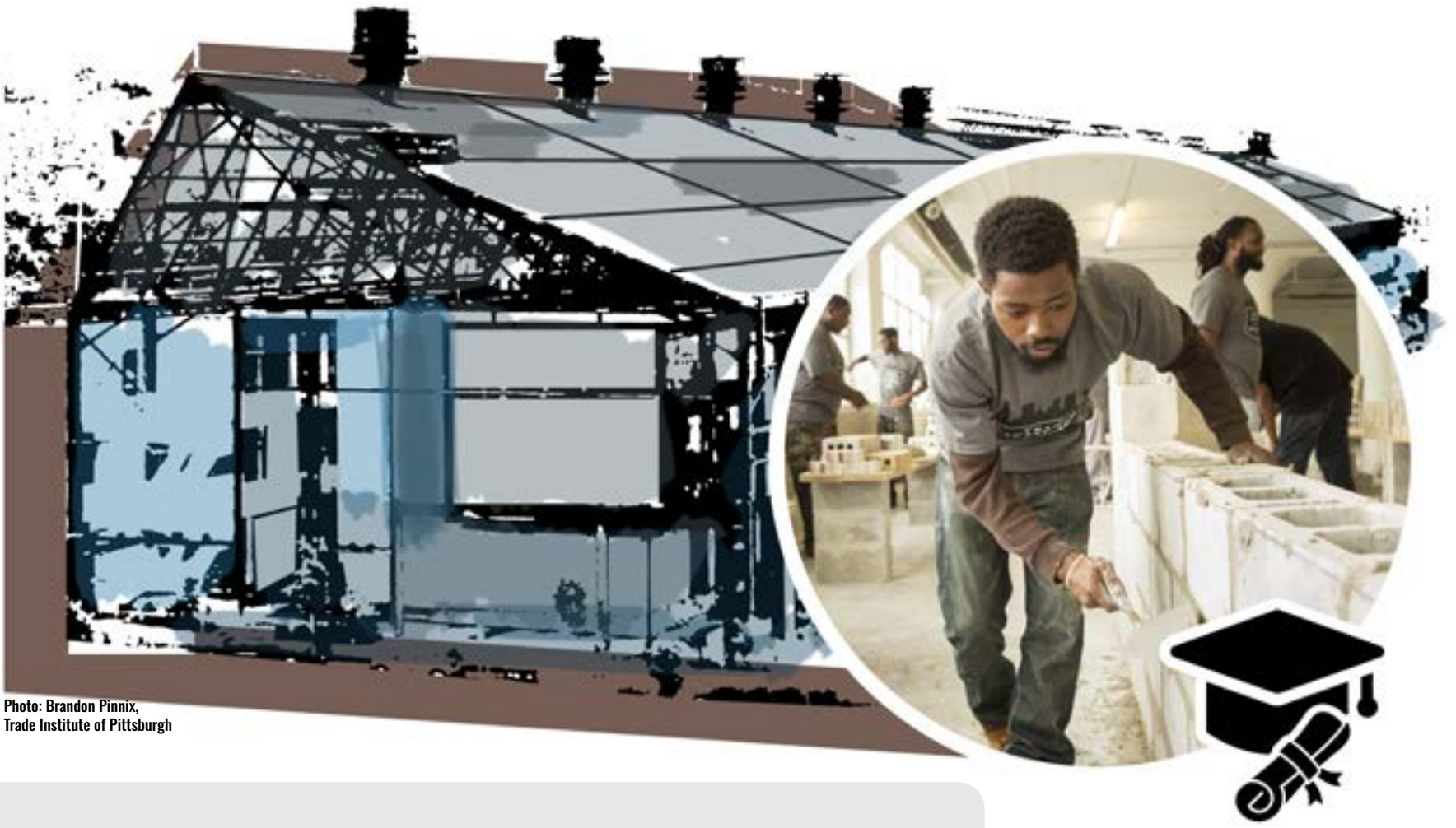


Photo: Brandon Pinnix,
Trade Institute of Pittsburgh

I'm about to start my senior year, so I'm starting to think about what I'm going to do after graduation. It's hard to know what kind of jobs are going to be out there for me, but I really like working with my hands, so ideally, I'd like a career where I get to actually build things.



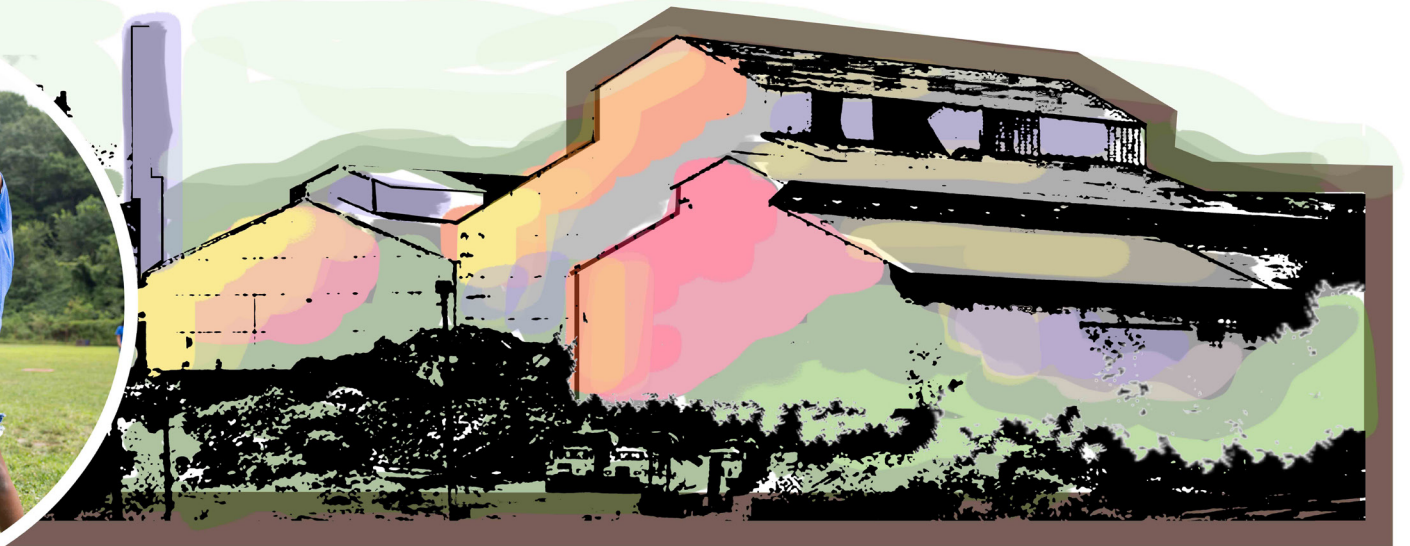
Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

Increased investment in clean tech training programs means that the next generation of workers will have lots of **educational opportunities** that line up with jobs available here in the region. By training our workforce to meet the needs of a changing energy economy, we make sure that Allegheny County workers have skills that will be in demand for a long time to come.

Mon Valley resident



Photo: DCI
Summer Camp



I live 2 miles from a large industrial plant, and you can definitely smell the air pollution. My daughter has asthma, and I worry that our neighborhood might be the reason, but all our family and support systems are here, and it would be so expensive to move. As we think more about it, there aren't a lot of businesses here or activities for my daughter.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

As steel-making shifts toward less carbon-intensive and less locally polluting technologies, the cleaner air could mean their daughter has **fewer trips to the doctor**, and **more businesses begin to open** on the main street.

Homeowner in Penn Hills



Source:
Wikipedia Commons



My house was built in the 1950s - I like it a lot, and the neighborhood too, but it's so drafty and my heating and cooling bills are getting so high! I'd love to make some improvements, but I think they're expensive and I don't know much about what things I should do first.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

With new rebates and education programs to support home retrofits she can get discounts on new windows, insulation, and a heat pump heating and cooling system, making the house **more comfortable and saving money** in the long run. Replacing a gas stove with induction **improves indoor air quality**, and boils water in no time!

Renter in the city



Source:
Pittsburgh Regional Transit

I'm currently living in a pretty crummy apartment - the heat barely works and the electric bill was always more than I can afford. I'd love to live somewhere a bit more comfortable and closer to a bus line so I can get to work more easily.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

When new buildings meet higher energy efficiency standards, residents benefit from the latest technology that saves energy and money, and is healthier and more comfortable to live in. Zoning and funding changes to build housing closer to transportation and employment centers also increases resident convenience and create vibrant neighborhoods with lots of business and employment opportunities.

North Hills resident



Last year after a really bad storm my power was out for three weeks! We tried staying in the house for a few days, but it just wasn't possible. We spent so much money on lost groceries, and we had to stay with my sister for a long time, which doubled my commute to work.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

Reinforcing the electric grid to be more resilient to extreme weather events will mean that residents won't have to suffer through extended power outages that cost money and put vulnerable residents in danger. Moving power lines underground where possible will beautify neighborhoods and give more space for street trees.

Rowhouse owner in Lawrenceville



Our electric bill has gotten a lot higher in the last few years, and with all of the power outages it might be nice to have backup power too. My neighbor put solar panels on their roof last year, and now I'm thinking about it too, but it's really expensive up front even though it would save a lot of money in the long run (especially if we get that electric vehicle we've been looking at).



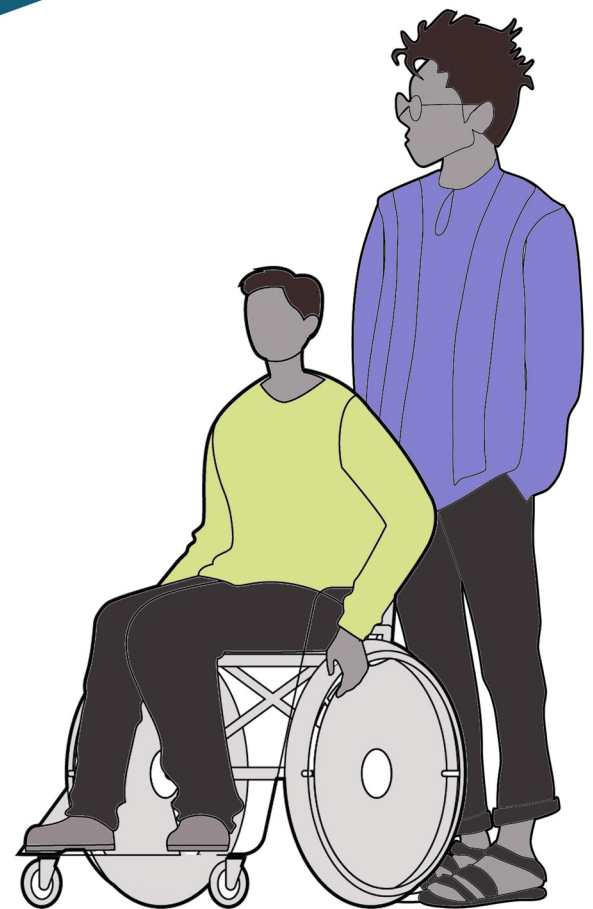
Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

Increased financial support for homeowners to install rooftop solar arrays and backup batteries will make it more affordable for residents to have clean, cheap, reliable power for their homes. Including backup batteries with solar makes homes resilient in the case of power outages.

Transit commuter in the South Hills



I take the bus to work and my daily commute takes about 2 hours. We live on a busy street with lots of traffic, which is convenient, but it's noisy and smells bad.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

Improved transit service will make his commute time shorter, so now he has time to play with his kids and more time before bedtime. More electric vehicles and buses on the roads means his street is quieter and has better air quality.

Verona mom with a job in the city



I make multiple trips and stops throughout the day, taking my kids to school, going to work, and running errands. Gas used to cost me about \$100/month, but now it's closer to \$140. I'm thinking about getting a new car and I wonder if an electric vehicle (EV) is a good idea.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

In Pennsylvania EVs cost about 70% less per mile to operate, so she could save \$70-100 per month, plus lower maintenance costs. Once Allegheny County builds out a strong network of EV charging at businesses, parks, and on streets, she can buy an EV without worrying about where or when to charge it.

Retiree living in the Allegheny Valley



I care about the environment, so I try to do what I can to make a difference. My township doesn't have curbside recycling pickup, so I take it to Harrison Hills Park to the drop-off site. I'd like to compost more, but I can only put certain kinds of things in my backyard compost bin, so a lot of food just has to go in the trash.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

As municipalities work together to ensure everyone has curbside recycling, she doesn't have to drive to the county park to recycle anymore, and a weekly compost dropoff program at the farmers market means she's throwing away less food in the trash. By recycling and composting more than they throw away, and reducing the amount of plastic in the environment, communities will create less waste overall and create a sense of neighborhood pride!

Owner of a small, local catering business



Source:
Grow Pittsburgh

I run a small catering business, making food for parties and meetings. I pay my employees a living wage and want my business to make a positive difference in the world, but it's pretty expensive to use all sustainable products, especially when competing with big chains.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

Establishing new standards and certifications for sustainability will make it easier and cheaper for businesses to engage in sustainable practices like reusable or compostable materials and locally sourced food. Generating greater awareness of these practices means that sustainable small business owners in Allegheny County can benefit from greater use of their services, supporting the local economy.

River town resident



Source:
Allegheny County Parks,
Boyce Park



Almost any time it rains our basement gets wet, and a few times recently our street got completely flooded. It seems like that's happening more and more these days.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

With increased deployment of green stormwater infrastructure that reduces stormwater runoff and sequesters greenhouse gas emissions, residents in low lying areas will see fewer issues with flooding in their homes.

Rowhouse renter in the city



Source:
Tree PGH

It gets so hot on our street in the summer, and there's just no shade anywhere. Sometimes it feels like you could cook an egg on the pavement. We run a window AC unit, but it's noisy and drives up the electric bill.



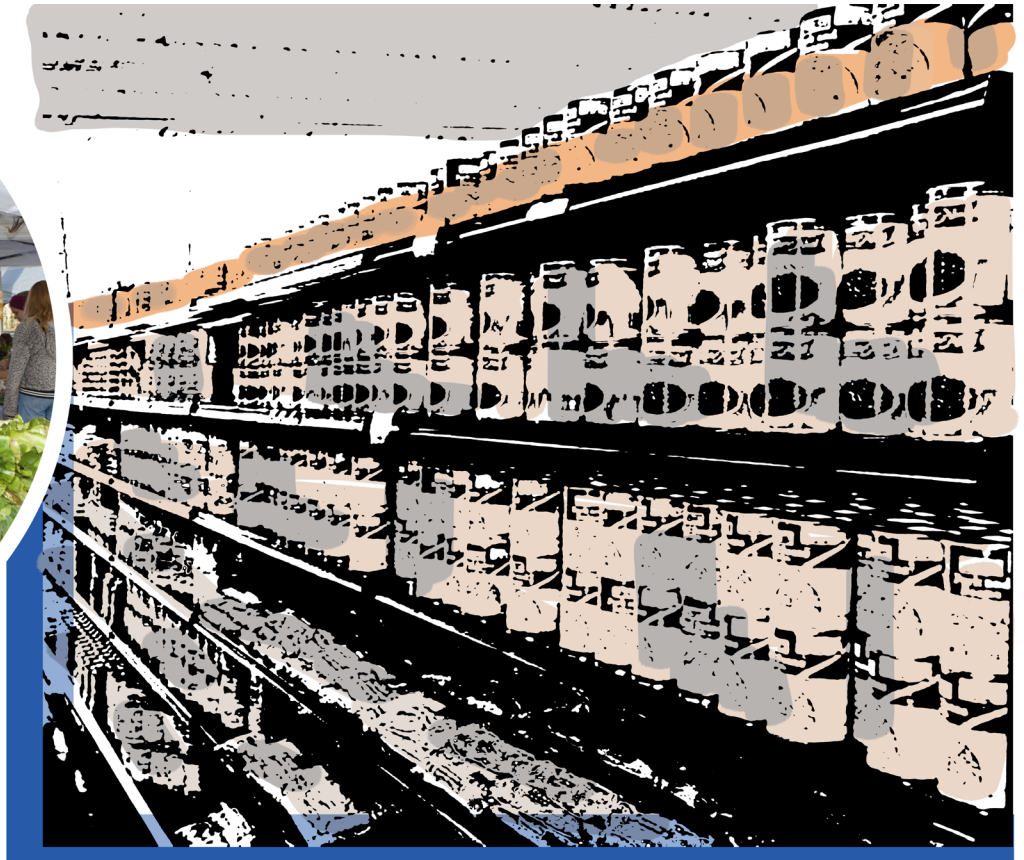
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Increasing tree canopy in public spaces will sequester greenhouse gas emissions, and also provides valuable shade and cooling in urban areas that suffer from a “heat island” effect. Residents with trees in their neighborhood have safer, more pleasant places to be outside in the summer, and will save money from the shading provided to keep houses cooler.

Retired senior living in a food desert



Source:
Grow Pittsburgh



I don't have a grocery store in my neighborhood, and since I don't have a car, I have to take the bus to get groceries. If I don't have time for the long bus ride, that means I have to get food from the corner store, which doesn't really have anything fresh.



Climate action will benefit Allegheny County Residents

Increased support for local agriculture will mean that neighborhood greenspaces can be used to produce healthy food that is accessible to residents. County supported food distributors and food hubs increase food access for residents facing food insecurity.

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Tree PGH

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